

**College Research Council**  
**August 24, 2009**  
**9 a.m. TRP II Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Dr. Russ Lea, Committee Chair and Vice President for Research; Dr. Roy Daigle, Professor, Computer and Information Sciences; Dr. Catherine Dearman, Chair, Maternal Child Nursing; Mr. Ker Ferguson, Director, Technology and Research Park; Ms. Gina Hedberg, Director, Grants Administration; Dr. Jim Laier, Associate Dean, Engineering; Dr. Laurie Owen, Associate Director, Center for Basic and Translational Sciences; Dr. Maggie Pyle, Director, Sponsored Programs; Dr. Deborah Spake, Associate Dean, College of Business; Mr. Reggie Taylor, Associate Director, Technology Transfer; Mr. Ben Tipton, Associate Controller, Grants and Contracts Accounting; Dr. Mary Townsley, Assistant Dean/Director, Faculty Affairs, College of Medicine; Dr. Julio Turrens, Associate Dean, Allied Health; and Dr. S. L Varghese, Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Andre Green, Assistant Professor, Leadership and Teacher Education, attended as proxy for Dr. Phil Feldman.

**Members Absent:** Ms. Dusty Layton, Director, Research Compliance and Assurance; and Dr. Phil Feldman, Associate Dean, College of Education.

Dr. Lea called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., thanking everyone for their continuing participation, adding that it is a responsibility of this Council to communicate with Campus on issues relating to what the Feds are proposing to do or not to do regarding grants, from pre- to post-award.

Regarding Recovery Act submissions, Dr. Lea informed that there has been an excellent response by our faculty, and exceptional support has been provided by Chris Willis, and his Facilities Management team.

**Russ Lea/Maggie Pyle**

**ERA FastGrant System: Electronic Proposal Development, Routing, and Grants.gov Submissions**

Dr. Lea and Dr. Pyle updated the Council regarding progress toward transitioning the University's pre-award system to the ERA FastGrant System. This system will utilize ERA servers for proposal submission through FastGrant. Data is being entered now, and training to the new system will be offered soon. This will be a cost effective pre-award system and provide for better reporting. It was noted that NSF is staying with Fast Lane. FastGrant will be our mechanism for all proposal submissions to Grants.gov; and will be an electronic process.

Dr. Pyle provided a slide presentation on the ERA FastGrant System. Copies of Dr. Pyle's presentation slides are provided herein as Exhibit 1. This system pulls information and forms into FastGrant ready for use.

### **Russ Lea/Maggie Pyle**

#### **Research Productivity Reports: Project Awards vs. Budget Awards**

Research Productivity Reports were provided for the 2009 fiscal year to-date which included all USA colleges and units. Project award and budget award figures were provided for each unit which included numbers of proposals submitted, proposals processed, proposals funded, proposals denied; percent funded; direct cost F&A Reimbursement; Total; Cost Sharing; and Final Total. A separate report was provided on the Center for Lung Biology – Pharmacology, breaking down the budget awards and project awards by PI and Proposal. Copies of these documents are included herein as Exhibit 2.

### **Gina Hedberg**

#### **ARRA – Update on Reporting Requirements**

Ms. Hedberg provided examples of the template spreadsheets released on August 17, 2009 for reporting to [www.FederalReporting.gov](http://www.federalreporting.gov) (<http://www.federalreporting.gov>). The long federal forms and new reporting requirement will include vendors. Federal reporting will be required on a quarterly basis. These templates will be used to report on all ARRA-funded activities received by the University. Our first federal reporting deadline will be October 10, 2009, and will be coordinated by the Office of Grants Administration in partnership with the recipient colleges and departments.

Ms. Hedberg also provided an example of the Monthly Update Form for the State of Alabama. Monthly reporting will now be required by the State. Ms. Hedberg informed that Ms. Kathy Cunningham is the key person in Grants Administration for this process, backed up by Ms. Deborah Musgrove and Ms. Anita Kirkland. Clearly, PIs will be involved from the beginning to the end—throughout the reporting of Recovery Act monies.

Mr. Tipton added that PIs previously tended to hold back funds, sometimes having large balances toward the end of an award period. With these awards [ARRA], it will be important to stay on track with the utilization and spending of funds. It is expected that the criteria will be much more restrictive.

### **Russ Lea/Maggie Pyle**

#### **Army Research Office Regional Workshop: February 2010**

Dr. Lea stated that the next agency to invite to campus for a workshop might be the Army Research Office (ARO). They are very involved in breast cancer, biologics, engineering, computers, nursing, Special Forces, etc. Dr. Pyle added that through our contacts with the Federal Demonstration Project, we are hoping to be able to offer a regional workshop in February 2010, providing a diversity of research topics of interest. Dr. Lea stated that this would be a dynamic group to deal with as USA Research would fit well with ARO. Dr. Pyle will

communicate information to the Council as progress is made toward getting a regional workshop scheduled.

**Russ Lea****Alabama Universities Research Retreat: Promoting Research Collaborations, College Research Associate Deans**

Dr. Lea stated that a state-wide meeting of Associate Deans of Research is being planned for mid spring (April or May 2010) to promote research collaborations. There was a brief discussion regarding this issue. Dr. Lea advised that additional information would be forthcoming.

**Russ Lea*****Section 7009 of the America COMPETES Act regarding Responsible Conduct of Research***

Dr. Lea provided information regarding the National Science Foundation's (NSF) recent implementation of Section 7009 of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act.

This section of the act requires that each institution that applies for financial assistance from the National Science Foundation describe in its grant proposal a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers participating in the proposed research project. The full announcement can be accessed through the Federal Register Online via GPO Access, <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-19930.htm>.

Although we may develop our own training process, the process will be auditable for compliance by NSF at anytime.

It was suggested that USA's training certification process might be provided through online training, and certificates of completion could be attached to personnel action forms of new student workers and postdoctoral researchers. It is expected that NSF will allow ample time for training. However, RCR training must be completed before student workers and/or postdocs may begin working on any NSF project.

**Maggie Pyle****CRA Review Workshop planned for September 11, 2009**

Dr. Pyle provided information on the upcoming CRA workshop. It was noted that the cost of this workshop would be \$195 per person, and will be a review of the body of knowledge. Further information will be forthcoming.

Dr. Pyle added that Mr. Steve Croft had received the first CRA Certification at USA, and that he was one of five in the entire state who had achieved this certification.

It is expected that this certification will provide unit-level expertise which could be recognized by HR to the extent that those receiving certification could be financially rewarded for this

additional expertise. Long range planning would include the distribution of additional authority to individual units, up to and including agency electronic submissions.

With there being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra S. Corry  
Recorder